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SCORES INSTITUTE OF MINING MECHANICS,  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES UKRAINIAN SSR

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The Institute of Mining Mechanics, Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR, has the duty of establishing the scientific fundamentals for the design and construction of mining machinery and equipment, and of fostering advances in important branches of the national economy, such as the coal, ore, and nonferrous metals industries. However, during the postwar Five-Year-Plan period, this institute has failed completely in its duties, has maintained an attitude of aloofness from the needs of the national economy, and further has not completed a single project which it has started.

Examples of the institute's bad faith are legion. A year ago, the Department of Technical Sciences, Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR, held a special meeting in the city of Stalino. At that time, representatives of the mining industry placed before the members of the Department of Technical Sciences several examples of the bad faith and disinterested attitude of the Institute of Mining Mechanics. Donbass miners complained that the institute was uncooperative in the program for increasing the yield of coal. The authorities of the institute were properly penitent and resolved to eliminate the undesirable aspects of the research programs. Promises were made to the effect that help would be given soon with respect to the development of new automatic devices for coal combines and other cutting and coal-loading equipment.

On projects as comprehensive as those to which the institute committed itself at that meeting, it is unreasonable to expect results within a year's time. However, if after a period of several years no results are forthcoming, it is then not unreasonable to suppose that the institute is disinterested in completing the postwar Five-Year Plan.

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In 1946, the institute undertook the study of the above-mentioned automatic regulating devices for the coal combine. Today, the combine would have been equipped with these devices, and moreover, several other problems would have been solved, had the institute undertaken a program of effective coordination of effort with other scientific-research institutes doing research in related fields of machine building.

It appears that the authorities at the institute, when deciding on the value of a project, discount the general governmental interest, but give weight to their own opinions.

On several occasions the Donets Affiliate of Giprouglemash (State Planning Institute for Coal-Mining-Machine Building) has attempted to aid the institute in developing the previously mentioned automatic regulators. However, the institute, probably prompted by visions of personal glory more than anything else, refused to make use of the proffered aid for fear that it would not be given full credit for its development.

The existence of this fear is past the conjecture stage, for at one of the party meetings which are held from time to time at the institute, Kuchеров, director of the institute, stated that personnel of the institute should avoid too much fraternization with personnel of other institutes, and special effort should be made to prevent the discussion of work plans of the institute for fear that others might plagiarize its work, complete the projects, and claim full credit.

Spokesmen for Giprouglemash have disclaimed any interest in claiming credit for the completion of the automatic regulators. Their only concern is that, until such time as the regulators are developed, the operators of coal combines will be unable to utilize the combines to their full capacity. In a final attempt to obtain action on the matter, Giprouglemash approached Halladin, President of the Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR, to exert some pressure on the Institute of Mining Mechanics. Considerable time has gone by and there still has been no official action by the president or the Presidium to bring pressure to bear on the institute.

These spokesmen of Giprouglemash are correct when they claim that one of the primary functions of the institute is to coordinate its efforts with the efforts of other scientific-research establishments conducting research in similar fields. There is also no error on their part when they surmise that an active program of coordination will tend to bring the institute face to face with the actual problems in exploiting the Donbass.

As early as the 18th meeting of the party there was a resolution to introduce a cyclic operating method at coal mines. This problem has been worked on by all research agencies with the exception of the Institute of Mining Mechanics. On another occasion, Donbass laborers and field workers requested the institute to develop a combine for extracting coal from low-grade veins. The institute apparently achieved a case of temporary deafness and no credit can be given to the institute for the present existence of such a combine, developed as a result of Soviet initiative by the coal-field workers.

The last Five-Year Plan called for a rapid expansion of the coal industry in the Ukrainian lignite region. The institute was called on to develop several new types of combines which would permit rapid extraction and dressing of these coals. However, the Lignite Division, Institute of Mining Mechanics, has abstained from fulfilling any of the requirements of brown-coal miners for mining equipment.

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The institute has not published a single monograph on problems of coal mining or methods for improving mining methods. One of the reasons for this apparent stagnation might be the reticence of the hallowed scientists to engage in any sort of scientific critique. It would seem that one of the easiest methods for establishing an effective program of socialistic self-criticism would be to initiate a system of seminars, at which important scientific and research problems would be discussed. At numerous meetings of the institute, loyal party members attempted to introduce motions for the initiation of such seminars. However, the chairman of the meetings, who is also the institute's director, has never given them the floor, and the seminar proposal has never been made part of the official record.

The Scientific Council of the institute meets rarely, and when it does meet, no effort is made to initiate constructive research programs. Recently, several important controversies revolved around Soviet linguistics and Pavlov's physiological teachings. However, the Scientific Council, Institute of Mining Mechanics, made no effort to publicize the results of the debates held relative to these controversies.

Little if any scientific research is conducted at the institute. Most of the capabilities of its personnel are utilized at educational establishments in Stalino, Dnepropetrovsk, and Khar'kov. Therefore, despite the fact that among the ranks of the personnel of the institute there are five Corresponding Members, they are never at the institute long enough to carry out an efficient research program. Even the institute's director does not find sufficient time to spend there.

This situation naturally contributes to a state of general laxity in the institute's research programs. The Presidium, Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR, and the party committee of the academy are well aware of the facts, but fail to give them their proper attention. In the past year, the institute's party secretary was not required to render a single report to the Party Committee, Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR. The Presidium, in its turn, refuses to render the institute proper aid with respect to strengthening its scientific leadership.

The time is ripe to place the institute's research programs on the proper road to socialistic achievements.

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